

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 71

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Cile Mathews on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Cile Mathews is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-one years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Florence Crittenton Agency (FCA) and who has recently taken a much deserved retirement from this noble work; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Mrs. Mathews graduated from Hawkinsville High School in Hawkinsville, Georgia, and she enrolled at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1966; and

WHEREAS, some years later, Mrs. Mathews continued her education at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and earned a Master of Science in Social Work degree in 1980; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Wesleyan College, she worked for several years as an educator with both the Richmond County and Bibb County schools in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Mrs. Mathews took a position as a counselor with the Bibb County Department of Public Welfare in Macon; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Cile Mathews brought her considerable talent and experience to Tennessee, where she worked as a counselor and administrator with Child Welfare Services in the Department of Human Services; she remained there until 1987, when she left to work for the FCA; and

WHEREAS, in 1896, the Florence Crittenton Home opened in Knoxville; its mission then was to help "fallen" girls and women reestablish decent and productive lives and heal the wounds inflicted by a life on the street; and

WHEREAS, the Florence Crittenton Home closed during World War I due to a lack of funding, but in 1963, the torch was relit: a group of concerned Knoxville citizens chartered the Florence Crittenton Agency of Knoxville, Incorporated, which was charged with the duty of assisting any young woman in need; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, when Cile Mathews accepted the position of Executive Director of the FCA, the agency was working with a \$325,000 budget to provide pre-natal services, residential treatment, and academic education to women in need. Its staff of fifteen was housed in a modest facility on Texas Avenue, and it could accommodate twenty-six residential clients, many of whom would stay there for a year or more; and

WHEREAS, thanks in large part to Mrs. Mathews's vision and leadership abilities, the FCA moved to a twenty-six-acre campus off Middlebrook Pike in 1996, which location includes six buildings housing a sizable staff, thus allowing the agency to offer more services to a larger population; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the year of Mrs. Mathews's retirement, the FCA, with its staff of 135, was able to provide services to 5,824 youth and their families, and the agency budget for that year was \$6.1 million; and

WHEREAS, under Mrs. Mathews, the FCA has recently been able to add a sixty-day intensive substance abuse treatment program for girls and, for the first time in the agency's history, boys as well; and

WHEREAS, Cile Mathews is an active and important part of her community and her profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations; her list of civic memberships includes Leadership Knoxville (Class of 1993), the Tennessee Alliance of Children and Families, which she served as President of the Board of Directors, and the Rotary Club of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mathews has been a faithful member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she has served as both an Elder and a Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mathews has enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, W. Ed Mathews, Jr., and together they are the proud parents of son, Matt, and daughter-in-law, Danielle; and

WHEREAS, her granddaughter, Hannah Mathews, will no doubt be quite pleased to have more time with her beloved grandmother; and

WHEREAS, Cile Mathews exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Mrs. Mathews has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Cile Mathews our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.